

A Message From Our President



Hello friends,

Happy new year! I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season. We are so excited to see what 2024 will bring for Gold Ribbon Rescue and are thrilled to have our amazing community to be a part of it. We put out a plea for foster homes to help us out over the holidays and we received many wonderful applications, so thank you so much for always stepping up when we need you.

I also want to give a huge thank you to all who donated to the Tree of Hope. We raised a phenomenal **\$23,220** and are grateful for your support. Thank you to Holly and Erik Burgeson for offering their home for the GRR holiday party and to those who donated silent auction items as well as all who attended and purchased those wonderful items. We had a great turnout and a great time was had by all. Thank you to all who purchased 2024 calendars as the calendars are sold out.

We ended 2023 with 121 dogs coming into our care, four of whom were prior GRR adoptions who were returned, which is our highest intake number in several years. We are still seeing many younger dogs that are owner surrenders, which has been a consistent trend over the last couple of years. We only had 4 owner returns, which is a low number and we are pleased to see that statistic go downward. We averaged fewer dogs from shelters than in years past and had only 5 heartworm positive dogs.

I want to remind everyone who adopts a dog from GRR to make sure to put an ID tag on their dog with their name and phone number on the dog's collar. It only takes a minute for a dog to slip out of your care. Also, do not forget to transfer the microchip to your name and keep GRR as the secondary contact, post adoption. When you take your dog in for their annual check-up make sure to have them scanned for the chip as chips can migrate and may need to be replaced. We were recently contacted about a found dog that appeared to be a Golden mix. Fortunately, once the finder took the dog to be scanned for a chip it turned out the dog was chipped and had been missing for almost TWO months. The dog was reunited with his owners right before Christmas thanks to the microchip information.

Warm Regards,
Michelle

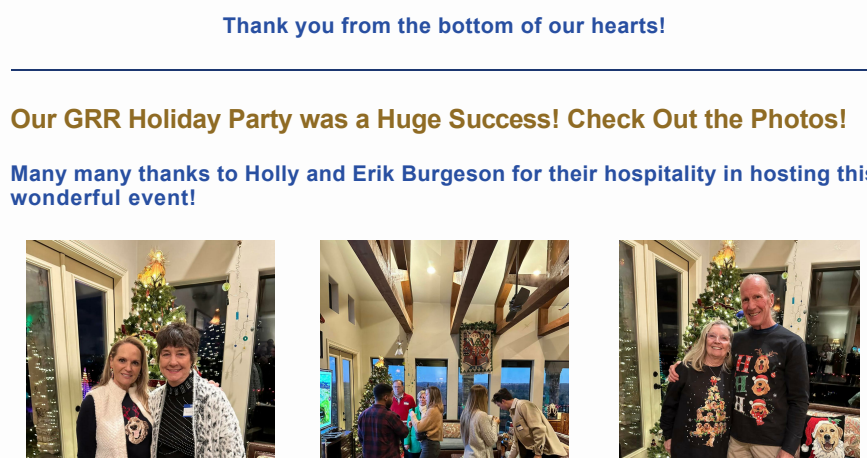
GRR is ready, willing and able to help Golden Retrievers.

If you know of a Golden in need or one to be surrendered, please always remember to contact our info@grr.org or call our hotline at 512-659-4653 as our social media pages aren't monitored for posts of dogs in need.

Do you have questions or comments for the Board?

We value your input. Please send a note to the **GRR Board** and include **Questions For The Board** in the subject line. We hope to hear from you! The next board meeting is **January 20, 2024**.

Happening This Month!



Tree of Hope

Thanks to your generosity, the Tree of Hope raised **\$23,220**. All of your donations support our Extraordinary Golden Fund (EGF), which provides care for dogs with **extraordinary medical, surgical or orthopedic needs**.

Thank you so much!

Help Us Help Them - A New Year's Resolution

Jackie Mulkey, Intake Director

A Circle of Love!

Know that I am safe.
Know that I am loved.
Know that I am cared for.
Know that regardless from where I started, you show me love and patience.
Know that finding you wasn't something that "just happened".

- A rancher threatens to shoot his Golden for killing chickens if we don't pick him up TODAY.
- A Golden is in a kill shelter with a broken leg and will be euthanized if no one steps forward.
- A lady is getting divorced, is the sole support of her daughter and grandchild and finances are tight.
- A family has children that are severely allergic and the Golden is relegated to the backyard.
- A Golden is seen roaming in a neighborhood for months with no family and no help.
- A senior Golden is in a shelter because its owner thinks it is too much trouble to care for.

These are some of the scenarios that we hear about daily. And we want to help, but we can't without foster homes for these babies. We are in great need of foster families. Thank you to new ones who just joined us. We still need many. Please please respond. **Don't wait for someone else. We need YOU!** We have several Golden Retrievers waiting and we need you to help us help them.

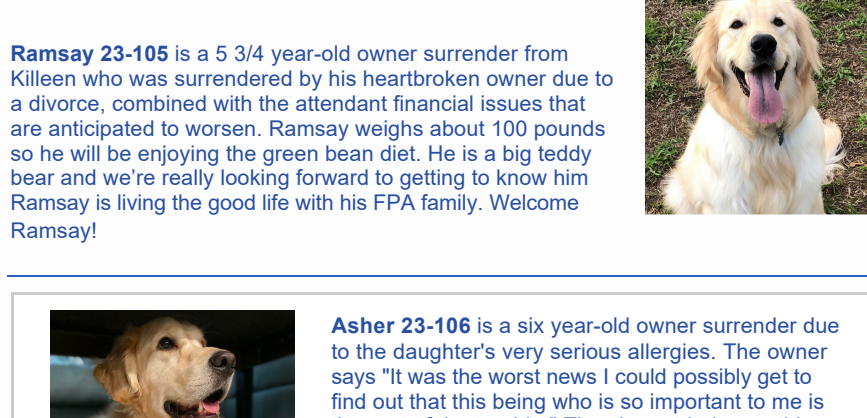
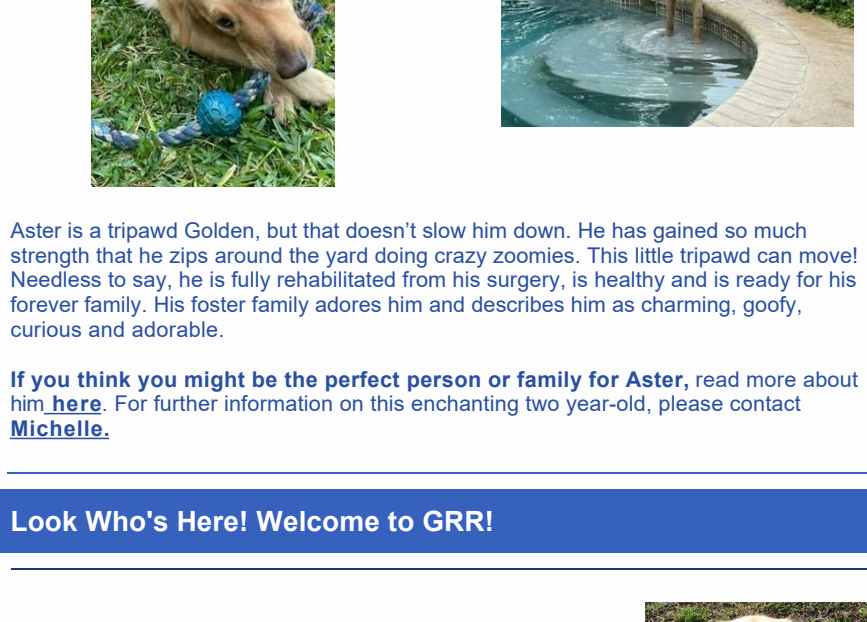
Won't you consider beginning 2024 with the resolution to help these beautiful souls find their forever homes? As a foster you will receive ongoing support from your dedicated team including your foster coordinator, medical coordinator and training coordinator. We have foster opportunities to fit all types of families and lifestyles. Fostering is a truly rewarding experience and you are literally saving the life of a Golden.

Please help us help them! **Learn more about fostering, how to qualify and complete a new application.**

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

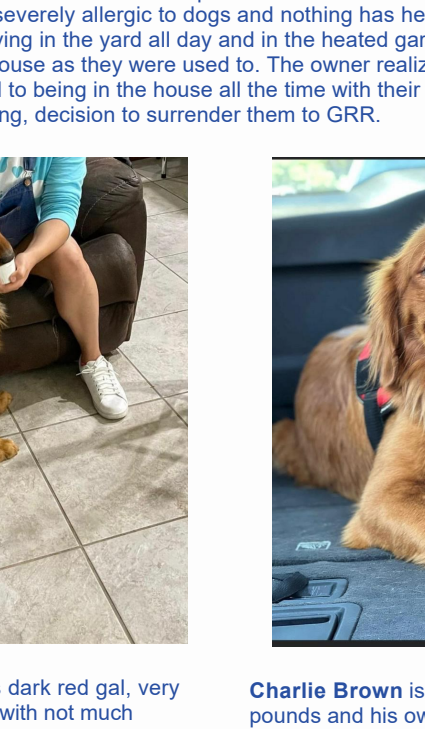
Our GRR Holiday Party was a Huge Success! Check Out the Photos!

Many many thanks to Holly and Erik Burgeson for their hospitality in hosting this wonderful event!



It's All About the Dogs! Here's Our Roundup!

Spotlight on Aster 23-094

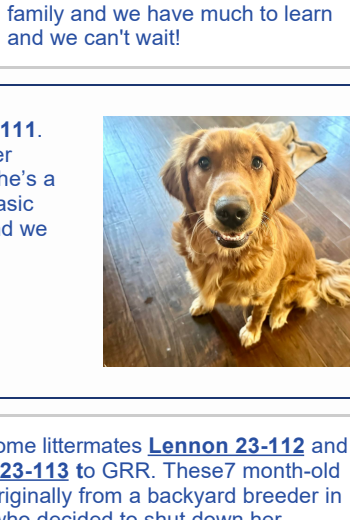
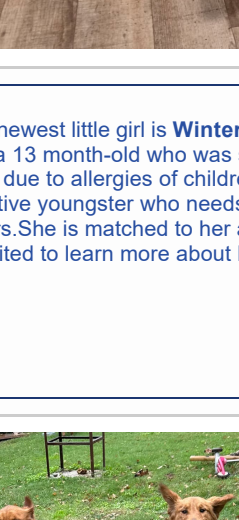


What's better than 4 legs? 3 legs and a BIG heart! Meet Aster.

What's better than 4 legs? 3 legs and a BIG heart! Meet Aster who is wishing, hoping and praying for his forever home.

Did you know that trippawds live perfectly happy and normal lives? As a matter of fact, their life actually improves after amputation because the source of pain and discomfort is gone. They are a day used to shifting their weight to three legs because the affected leg is too painful to walk on.

You may recall that GRR's Aster 23-094 was flown up to Austin as an emergency intake to liberally save his life. He had a badly mangled foot that was severely infected and the shelter was going to have to euthanize him if we didn't help. We knew he was absolutely worth saving and with your help through his GoFundMe, we did what needed to be done. After his emergency vetting when he needed a blood transfusion to survive and then having his rear leg amputated, he has recovered well and is looking forward to his own forever home. Could it be yours?



Aster is a trippawd Golden, but that doesn't slow him down. He has gained so much strength that he zips around the yard doing crazy zoomies! This little trippawd can move! Needless to say, he is fully rehabilitated from his surgery, is healthy and is ready for his forever family. His foster family adores him and describes him as charming, goofy, curious and adorable.

If you think you might be the perfect person or family for Aster, please reach out about him here. For further information on this enchanting two year-old, read more about Michelle.

Look Who's Here! Welcome to GRR!

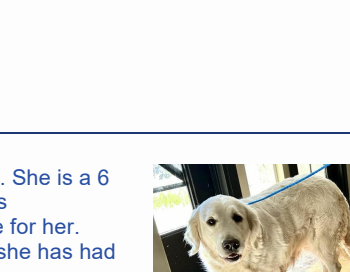
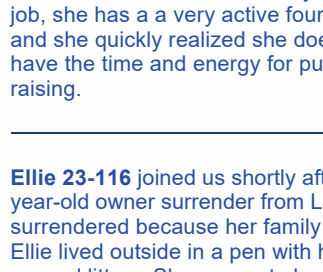
Ramsay 23-105 is a 5 3/4 year-old owner surrender from Kilsen who was surrendered by his heartbroken owner due to a divorce, combined with the attendant financial issues that are anticipated to worsen. Ramsay weighs about 100 pounds everything we could for her but she stopped breeding eggs and wasn't able to be revived. None of the bad behaviors described by the previous owners bear and we're really looking forward to know him Ramsay is living the good life with his FPA family. Welcome Ramsay!



Asher 23-106 is a six year-old owner surrender due to the daughter's very serious allergies. The owner says "It was the worst news I could possibly get to find out that this being who is so important to me is the root of the trouble." They have tried everything to no avail. Asher sounds like he has a lot of personality and will bring lots of fun to his new family. A 5 - 6 year old Golden is such a great age, especially for a male Golden, smart, fun and goofy. **Asher is matched to his FPA family**, Welcome to GRR Asher!



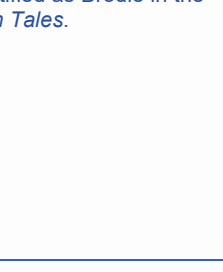
Cricket 23-107 was surrendered with her pal **Charlie Brown 23-108** because the two younger children are severely allergic to dogs and nothing has helped. Cricket and Charlie Brown were living in the yard all day and in the heated garage at night, but were never allowed in the house as they were used to. The owner realized this was no life for them as they are used to being in the house all the time with their people so she made the agonizing, but loving, decision to surrender them to GRR.



Cricket is a gorgeous dark red gal, very bouncy, "a wild child," with not much training. She went into heat without them realizing it last year and before you can say "accidental litter" she was in the family way! She produced three tubby puppies who were adopted out to friends. She was with her FPA dad for Christmas and is settling in nicely.

Charlie Brown is a sturdy guy at 90 pounds and his owner describes him: "He is just a big marshmallow, a cream puff, a big baby, a giant lab dog, sweet and gentle, always wants to be with you, loves to go walking and play fetch, a great companion for his family." Charlie Brown is with his FPA family.

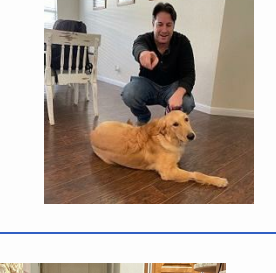
Please welcome **Booker 23-109** to the GRR family. Booker came to us via the Williamson County Shelter where, sadly, no one claimed him during his stray hold. Booker is a super handsome BIG boy with great big feet who was found at a local elementary school. He spent a few days in his stash home and is now with his foster family. What a sweetheart! Welcome to GRR Booker!



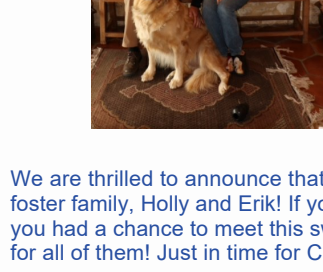
Sidka 23-110 is a 7 year-old owner surrender from Moore, TX who was surrendered because he kept getting out of the yard. He lived out in the country and the neighbors were threatening to shoot him because he was enjoying the taste of their chickens and ducks. Sidka is an escape artist par excellence and nothing could contain him. GRR brought him in immediately because he wasn't safe. He is with his FPA family and we have much to learn and we can't wait!



GRR's newest little girl is **Winter Wednesday 23-111**. She is a 13 month-old who was surrendered by her owners due to allergies of children in the home. She's a very active young girl who needs some work on basic manners. She is matched to her adoptive family and we are excited to learn more about her.

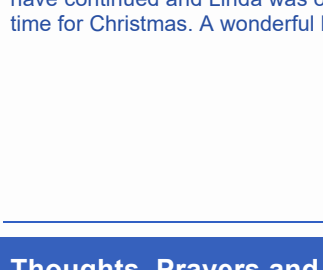


Please welcome littermates **Lennon 23-112** and **McCartney 23-113** to GRR. These 7 month-old boys were originally from a backyard breeder in Oklahoma, who decided to shut down her Golden Retriever breeding operation. These two were the last ones left from the most recent litter. They spent most of their lives in a kennel situation and have not had much exposure to anything outside of their immediate environment.



The owner had small children and also bred Corgis so we know that they are good with small dogs and children. Both boys are with their foster families. Welcome to GRR boys!

Ripley 23-114 is an almost 5 year-old owner surrender from the Red Rock area. She was surrendered because the owner, with 12 dogs, cats, and a large black dog, decided to shut down the 12 dogs in the house, there is a tiny dog in the mix that doesn't get along with Ripley and the owner felt that it is easier to rehome her. Ripley than the little mix dog, Ripley is with her foster/FPA family, enjoying a much more peaceful life.



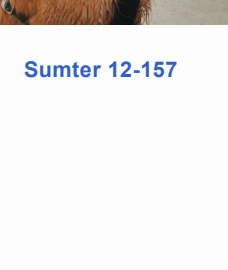
Bennington 23-115 is a 9 week-old owner surrender from Brownsville. Our volunteer friend Glenn flew his plane down to bring Bennington into GRR care.



Bennington was surrendered because the owner is suffering from awful morning sickness, her husband recently lost his job, she has a very active four year-old and she quickly realized she doesn't have the time and energy for puppy raising.

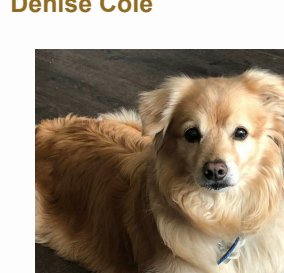
Bennington is fostering with Michelle until we learn a bit more about him. Welcome to GRR sweet Bennington. We can't wait to hear about your puppy antics.

Ellie 23-116 joined us shortly after Christmas Day. She is a 6 year-old owner surrender from Liberty Hill who was surrendered because her family didn't want her. Ellie lived outside in a pen with her daughter and she has had several litters. She seems to be super sweet and, as a country girl, she will need to learn to live inside. We're sure that she will love it! Ellie is settling in nicely with her FPA family.



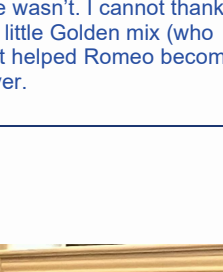
My Dreams Really Did Come True! I Got Adopted!

Cheers and Happy New Year to **Bodie 23-099**, who was adopted on December 1st by Karen and Bob. He is a perfect boy, very loving and sweet, and is a great companion for his new family, who lost their Lab last summer.

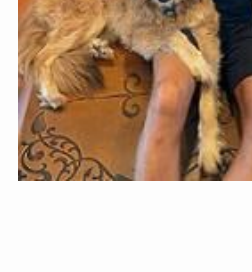


Bodie was incorrectly identified as Brodie in the December issue of *Golden Tales*.

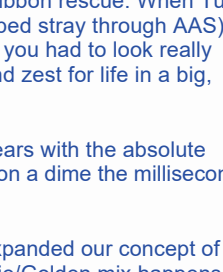
Super handsome, big blonde **Hank 23-100** was adopted on December 3rd by Joy and Dan's human siblings, Emory, Vivian and McKenzie. He has a sweet personality to match his smiling face and his life is complete as his adopting family has another dog in his life. None of the bad behaviors described by the previous owners, will definitely show him the ropes and will teach him how to run circles around Hank's new family. Life is sweet for Mr. Hank. Congratulations to the new family.



We are so happy to announce that **Luke 23-103** was adopted on December 4th by his FPA mom, Ellie. Luke is so sweet and goofy and we know he will be so happy with his new mom. Congratulations to them both!



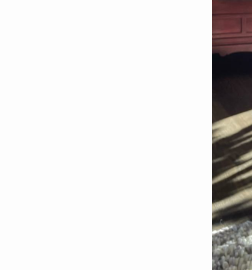
Yay for **Amelia 23-101**! She was adopted on December 10th by Jeff and Joyce. Her foster home did a great job with her and she is one sweet, young girl who will have a great life ahead of her! Jeff and Joyce wanted to surprise their two grown kids who were coming from Indiana later that week, so we agreed we wouldn't announce Amelia's adoption on social media. What a wonderful home for Amelia and a lovely surprise for the grown kids! We're so happy for them all!



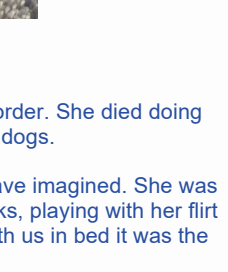
We are thrilled to announce that **Milo 23-102** was adopted on December 19th by his foster family, Holly and Erik! If you were able to attend the GRR holiday party, hopefully you had a chance to meet this sweet boy. This is a perfect match and we are so so much joy for all of them! Just in time for Christmas! We love that boy!



Merry Christmas to **Cricket (now Bailey)**, 23-107 who was adopted the evening of December 23rd by a besotted Justin. He is giving her tons of love and snuggles and, in moderation, everything we could for her but she stopped breeding eggs and wasn't able to be revived. None of the bad behaviors described by the previous owners when we have fancy dinners." Cricket now confidently zooms around the house and is becoming an explorer! What a wonderful Christmas blessing for them both!

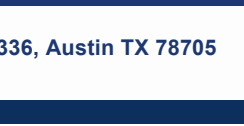
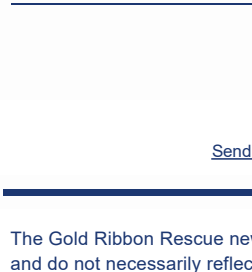
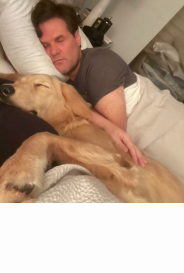


Great news for sweet **Molly 21-070**, who found her second home with GRR the evening of December 23rd - and this one seems to be the perfect match! Linda spoke so sweetly about how much she loves Molly and it just made our hearts sing. None of the bad behaviors described by the previous owners have continued and Linda was overjoyed to receive Molly in time for Christmas. A wonderful beginning for the new year.



Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance...

Romeo 19-014
Mia 23-006
Tuck (Buddy) 21-047
Sumter 12-157



In Memoriam
Romeo 19-014
Denise Cole

It is with a heavy heart and many tears that I share that Romeo (19-014) has crossed the bridge. He was 14 and still as happy and active as ever, until he wasn't. I cannot thank GRR and especially Jackie Mulkey for taking a chance on a cute little Golden mix (who came to find out had NO golden in him at all) and everyone that helped Romeo become a GRR dog and leading him to me. He was the best boy I ever.

Tuck (Buddy) 21-047
Holly Burgeson

My family wanted to let the GRR community know that one of GRR's most stellar rescue pups has passed away after 15 years, the last two as a Gold Ribbon rescue. When Tuck came to our family through Gold Ribbon (as a 13 year old chipped stray through AAS), he was not your stereotypical Golden. Most and first, outwardly you had to look really hard to see a Golden Retriever. Australian Sheppard in face and zest for life in a big, reddish Golden frame would probably best describe him.

Imagine a Golden Retriever laid back surfer dude in his later years with the absolute exuberance and zest for life with walks and play. He could twirl on a dime the milliseconds the leash drawer opened. That was our Tuck.

He will be immensely missed and forever in our hearts. Tuck expanded our concept of the Golden by his personality and warm quirks. I'd rather Aussie/Groon mix happens to show up at GRR's door, we are in for sure!

With Golden (and Aussie!!) love and Tuck in our hearts,
Holly, Erik, Keela and Kaci Burgeson

Mia 23-006
Carolyn DeRoock

